

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An article for connecting a fluid conduit and a fluid container, the article comprising:  
  
a receptacle configured to receive the fluid conduit, the receptacle including a base defining an opening for providing communication between the container and the fluid conduit and a sealing surface at least partially surrounded by a wall extending from the base, the wall configured to extend about the fluid conduit, the wall defining a passageway extending from an outer surface of the wall to an inner surface of the wall.
2. (Original) The article of claim 1, wherein the opening of the base is capable of fluid communication with the fluid conduit, the sealing surface providing a seal to inhibit leakage as fluid moves along a fluid passageway defined; at least in part, by the opening of the base and the fluid conduit.
3. (Original) The article of claim 1, wherein the receptacle comprises a thermoplastic material.
4. (Original) The article of claim 3, wherein the receptacle comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene, polyvinylidene fluoride and polytetrafluoroethylene.
5. (Original) The article of claim 1, wherein the receptacle comprises stainless steel.

6. (Canceled)
7. (Original) The article of claim 1, wherein the receptacle is suitable for use as part of a sanitary plumbing connection.
8. (Currently Amended) An article for connecting a fluid conduit and a fluid container, the article comprising:
  - a collar defining an opening therethrough, the opening configured to receive the fluid conduit; and
  - a receptacle configured to receive the fluid conduit, the receptacle including a base defining an opening for providing communication between the container and the fluid conduit and a sealing surface at least partially surrounded by a wall extending from the base, the wall configured to extend about the fluid conduit, the wall defining a passageway extending from an outer surface of the wall to an inner surface of the wall.
9. (Original) The article of claim 8 further comprising a sealing member seated adjacent the sealing surface.
10. (Original) The article of claim 9, wherein the sealing member is a gasket.
11. (Original) The article of claim 9, wherein the sealing surface defines a groove configured to mate with a rib defined by a surface of the sealing member.
12. (Original) The article of claim 8, wherein the receptacle is configured to receive the collar and the fluid conduit, and the wall configured to extend about the collar.

13. (Original) The article of claim 12 further comprising a fastener configured to secure the collar to the receptacle.

14. (Original) The assembly of claim 13, wherein the fastener is defined by a threaded outer surface of the collar and a mating threaded inner surface of the wall.

15. (Original) The assembly of claim 13, wherein the fastener is a clamp.

16. (Original) The assembly of claim 8, wherein the collar and the receptacle each include a flange extending outwardly from an associated outer surface.

17. (Original) The assembly of claim 16 further comprising a clamp for providing a force at a surface of the flanges capable of securing the collar and receptacle.

18. (Original) The assembly of claim 8 further comprising a fluid conduit extending through the opening of the collar.

19. (Original) The assembly of claim 18, wherein the fluid conduit includes a flange extending from an outer surface at an end of the fluid conduit.

20. (Original) The assembly of claim 19, wherein the flange of the fluid conduit is positioned between the collar and sealing surface.

21. (Original) The assembly of claim 20, wherein the collar includes a seating surface configured to seat against a surface of the flange of the fluid conduit.

22. (Original) The assembly of claim 18, wherein an end of the fluid conduit defines a second sealing surface.

23. (Original) The assembly of claim 22 further comprising a sealing member positioned between the sealing surfaces of the base and the fluid conduit.

24. (Currently Amended) A container comprising:  
an article disposed on the container, the article comprising  
a receptacle configured to receive a fluid conduit, the receptacle including a base defining an opening for providing fluid communication between the container and the fluid conduit and a sealing surface at least partially surrounded by a wall extending from the base, the wall configured to extend about the fluid conduit, the wall defining a passageway extending from an outer surface of the wall to an inner surface of the wall.

25. (Original) The container of claim 24, wherein the base defines an outer surface, opposite the sealing surface that is affixed to the container.

26. (Original) The container of claim 25, wherein the outer surface of the base is affixed by welding.

27. (Original) The container of claim 26 wherein the outer surface of the base is welded to a surface of the container about at least one of an inner diameter of the opening of the base and an outer diameter of the periphery of the base.

28. (Original) The container of claim 27, wherein the outer surface of the base is welded to the surface of the container about both the inner diameter of the opening of the base and the outer diameter of the periphery of the base.

29. (Original) The container of claim 24 wherein the connector assembly further comprises a collar defining an opening therethrough, the opening configured to receive the fluid conduit.

30. (Original) The container of claim 29, wherein the receptacle is configured to receive the collar and the fluid conduit, the wall configured to extend about the collar.

31. (Original) The container of claim 30 further comprising a fastener configured to secure the collar to the receptacle.

32. (Original) The container of claim 31, wherein the fastener is defined by a threaded outer surface of the collar and a mating threaded inner surface of the wall.

33. (Original) The container of claim 31, wherein the fastener is a clamp.

34. (Original) The container of claim 29, wherein the collar and the receptacle each include a flange extending outwardly from an associated outer surface.

35. (Original) The container of claim 34 further comprising a clamp for providing a force at a surface of the flanges capable of securing the collar and receptacle.

36. (Original) The container of claim 29 further comprising a fluid conduit extending through the opening of the collar.

37. (Currently Amended) A method of assembling a fitting assembly, the method comprising:

positioning a collar about a fluid conduit, the collar defining an opening configured to receive the fluid conduit;

securing the collar and the fluid conduit within a receptacle configured to receive the collar and the fluid conduit, the receptacle including a base and a sealing surface at least partially surrounded by a wall extending from the base, the wall configured to extend about the collar and define a passageway from an outer surface of the wall to an inner surface of the wall, the base defining an opening; and

sealing a passageway defined by the opening of the base and the fluid conduit.

38. (Original) The method of claim 37, wherein securing the collar and the fluid conduit within the receptacle includes fastening the collar to the receptacle.

39. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the collar is secured to the receptacle by a clamp.

40. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the collar is secured to the receptacle by mating threaded surfaces.

41. (Original) The method of claim 40, wherein the threaded surfaces are defined by an outer surface of the collar and an inner surface of the wall of the receptacle.

42. (Original) The method of claim 37 comprising seating the collar against a flanged surface of the fluid conduit.

43. (Original) The method of claim 37 comprising seating an end surface of the fluid conduit within the receptacle.

44. (New) The article of claim 9, wherein the collar has a ledge to inhibit over-compression of the sealing member when the collar is secured to the receptacle, with the ledge contacting the sealing surface, and the sealing member is seated adjacent the sealing surface.